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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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Maricopa County Public Health Awarded National Accreditation

PHOENIX (June 6, 2016)--Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments.

MCDPH is one of 134 local or state health departments that have achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011 and is one of three counties in Arizona to reach this achievement. Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities.

"The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community," said Bob England, MD, MPH, director of Maricopa County Department of Public Health. "This hard-earned achievement is a reflection of our strong community partnerships and the dedication and hard work of our staff who work to protect the health and improve lives of our residents each day."

To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

"The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities," PHAB CEO Kaye Bender said. "Residents of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community."

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. For more information, go to www.phaboard.org.

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